



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Jordan River National Fish Hatchery
6623 Turner Road
Elmira, Michigan 49730

On Saturday August 20, 2005, the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery held its 2nd annual Hatchery Fest. The event was sponsored by more than two dozen local businesses and community groups. More than a dozen state, federal and non-profit conservation and natural resource organizations provided booth displays. The weather was very wet but did not dampen the spirits of the 100 plus people who attended the event. The kid's games and contests were staffed by volunteers who did an outstanding job keeping up with the younger generation.

Perhaps the most popular booth display was provided by the Service's very own Ludington Biological Station, and was staffed by Ludington biologist Barry Matthews. Barry said that he attends many events per year, and it showed, as he had a polished presentation on sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. The live sea lamprey larvae drew in many curious onlookers.

Donna Koltuniak of Traverse City volunteered her fly casting expertise. Her display commanded the attention of most visitors. Donna patiently provided instruction to both youngsters and adults. Tim Smigielski, biologist at Jordan River said, "Donna is already booked for next years Fest. She was just awesome, and I can't thank her enough."

Thanks to the generous contributions of area businesses, we were able to give away many door prizes. Following is a list of this year's sponsors:

- Pure Fishing / Berkley
- Jays Sporting Goods
- Subway
- McDonald's
- Family Video
- Twigs & Blooms
- Sam's Club
- Gaylord Cinema
- K-Mart
- Jimmy Juke Box
- Boyne River Bait
- Antrim County Snowmobilers Club
- Jack's Sport Shop
- Mancelona Sports
- Don's Sport and Marine
- Alphorn Shop
- Call of the Wild
- Arctic Glacier
- BC Pizza
- Dairy Queen
- Glen's Market – Mancelona
- Glen's Market – Bellaire
- Mancelona Veterinary Clinic
- East Jordan Snowmobilers Club

The donators, the exhibitors, the volunteers, the hatchery staff, all were ready for mass quantities of public participation but the poor weather forecast kept numbers down. As Tim Smigielski noted, "It's Michigan, we were just lucky it didn't snow too."

Hatchery Fest 2006 is already in the works. Thanks to anyone and everyone who participated!